DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 202 345 HE 013 853

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TITLE	Personal Perspectives of Federal/State Roles in Postsecondary Education.
INSTITUTION	Education Commission of the States, Denver, Colo. Inservice Education Program.; State Higher Education Executive Officers Association.
SPONS AGENCY	Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, Mich.
REPORT NO	IEP-909-1
PUB DATE	May 75
NOTE	10p.; Paper presented at a Seminar for State Leaders in Postsecondary Education (Philadelphia, PA, May 1975).
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Educational Finance; *Educational Legislation; Educational Policy; Educational Trends; *Federal Government; *Federal Legislation; Federal State Relationship; Government Role; *Government School Relationship; *Higher Education; Legislators; Lobbying; *Public Policy; *State Government; Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS	*Seminars for State Leaders Postsec Ed (ECS SHEEO)

ABSTRACT

Brief observations and predictions on the state of postsecondary education and perspectives on federal and state roles are presented. It is suggested that higher education has lost its former high priority status in the minds of the public and ligislators; survival is a major preoccupation with many collegiate institutions; competition for campus-based students in the 1980s will create conflict; and increasing institutional costs will have to be shared. It is proposed that federal total dollar support will keep up with inflation at best, but few new programs will ensue, and there will be strong emphasis on student financial assistance. Indications are that the state role will increase, and a state agency that will serve as a buffer between political pressures and defensive isolationism on the part of academic institutions could be helpful. Increased state support to the private sector is suggested. Suggested strategies for state agencies include the following: emphasize leadership development; identify and involve lay workers; and designate one staff member to be accountable for monitoring federal policy process. Information is presented on the Authorizing Committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House, and budget committees in both legislative bodies. Suggestions are presented for contacting legislators or testifying before the 94th Congress. Among the recommendations are the following: communicate with members of the committee responsible for specific legislation as well as with the Senators and Representatives in Congress from one's own state; keep communications brief and timely; and become acquainted with legislative assistants and administrative assistants in one's own Senator's and Congressional Representative's Office. (SW)

ED202345

Inservice Education Program (IEP)

Paper Presented at a Seminar for State Leaders in Postsecondary Education

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES OF FEDERAL/STATE ROLES IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
May 1975

IEP Reprint No. 909-1

HE 013 853

Education Commission of the States

Inservice Education Program (IEP)
Education Commission of the States
1860 Lincoln Street, Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80295

SHEEO

The IEP Program has been supported primarily by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation with additional funds from the Education Commission of the States, the Frost Foundation and the State Higher Education Executive Officers

SESSION IV

Personal Perspectives of Federal/State Roles in Postsecondary Education

Robert C. Andringa

A. Observations and Predictions

1. Higher education has lost its former high priority status in the public's mind and in legislatures. Few would increase taxes (or deficits) to increase the total capacity of the collegiate sector.

2. Collegiate institutions becoming defensive; for many, mere survival is a major preoccupation. They seem to lack a governance structure that is flexible enough for the times.

3. Competition for campus-based students in 1980's will create new public issues which institutions cannot resolve without an external referee.

4. In foreseeable future, increasing institutional costs will have to be shared

5. More and more traditional students and "new clienteles" will need to pursue education while they work.

6. Individual rights will often override what are now seen as institutional prerogatives.

B. What to Expect from the Federal Government

1. Total dollar support keeping up with inflation at best.

2. Few new programs; strong emphasis on student assistance as main strategy.

3. Continued recognition in student assistance programs of both degree and non-degree granting institutions (total now about 5700 eligible institutions in postsecondary education).

4. Continued demands on institutions through exercise of regulatory powers; more red tape and criteria to meet as funds

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become scarce, abuses of federal programs come to light and issues of privacy, discrimination, consumerism, etc. take hold.

C. What Role for the States?

1. No way but up. Who seriously doubts an increasing state role? Motivation will come out of problems within the state, but federal legislation will encourgage the trend.

2. Neither federal government nor an individual institution will be able to take the lead in maintaining a strong postsecondary system in light of the economy . . . enrollment declines . . . collective bargaining . . . public reaction to unemployed college graduates . . . competition for tax support in areas of health, unemployment programs, aging, handicapped education, etc.

3. Most states should increase support to the independent sector to:

   - Prevent over-building public sector
   - Guarantee healthy competition and diversity of opportunities
   - Provide reason for limiting government intrusion into all institutions

4. Strong, fair dealing state agency is a necessary buffer between overzealous (and short term) political pressures and defensive isolationism on the part of academic institutions.

D. Personal Suggestions on State Agency Strategy

1. Take on the role of servant; become bipartisan; influence through informal networks; seek to represent honest perspective of what is current situation and what public policy should be.

2. Emphasize leadership development for both full-time personnel and non-agency "key persons." Encourage interstate exchanges; doctoral study research and internships; share ideas with other states. Not the time for "one man shows" in state agencies.

3. Identify and involve "laymen"--not in token manner. They have good perspective in these times; enjoy unique credibility with the broader community; will keep education out of strictly interest-group politics.

4. Become known as individuals thinking about "education and training" for all adults--not as an agency responsible for "educational institutions." Involve libraries, museums, civic groups, business and government training programs, newspapers, TV and other learning resources.

5. If you err on enrollment projections, err on the pessimistic side. Prepare state leaders and institutions for possible closings, mergers, state assumption of independent schools, reductions in number of programs, etc. Why? Politics and public emotions will play greater role in these decisions than quantitative analysis!

6. Designate one staff person to be accountable for monitoring federal policy process. He should alert others when need for letter, phone call, follow-up, etc.

7. Act not only as a reconciler of immediate crises, but help create a new rationale for and description of "appropriate institutional autonomy."

8. Begin working within the state for coordination of federal funds received through revenue-sharing program, CETA, Vocational Education Act--that's where the big dollars will be.

9. Relax about the current thrust of 1202 commissions. They were not expected to handle all the comprehensive planning of postsecondary education. But they were expected to do relevant planning that included all segments of postsecondary education.

THE 94TH CONGRESS NEEDS TO HEAR FROM LEADERS IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION!

1. Everyone is a "constituent" of two Senators and a Representative in Congress--take advantage of the first-class treatment constituents receive!

2. Should also communicate with members of the committee responsible for specific legislation.

3. Communications should be brief and timely (when the issue is under consideration).

4. Best way to find out status of an issue is to call the appropriate committee office.

5. Personal visits with congressman always good--set up appointments through his district (or state) office unless you can get to Washington.

6. No worry about addresses: To (whomever), U. S. House of Representatives or U. S. Senate--House zip 20515 and Senate zip 20510.

7. Use carbon copies if need be. Send original to committee or subcommittee chairman; copies to Ranking Member, your own Congressman, key committee staff, etc.

8. Get to know Legislative Assistants and Administrative Assistants in your Senator's and Congressman's offices.

9. All legislation is first "marked-up" and voted out of subcommittees. Most of the action is there.

10. Many witnesses appear before committees because they ask to testify. Many simply send statements to the Chairman asking that these be part of the hearing record.

11. The House and the Senate operate quite independently. Likewise, there is little communication between authorizing and appropriations committees. You need to communicate with all.

Authorizing Committees: House

Many committees in the House have some jurisdiction over programs affecting postsecondary education. For example, Interstate and Foreign Commerce handles all health education programs; Veterans' Affairs has the G. I. Bill; Science and Technology has the National Science Foundation; Ways and Means has tax legislation.

The "basic" postsecondary education programs (those administered by the Office of Education) come under the Committee on Education and Labor. This committee has 27 Democrats and 13 Republicans. The Chairman is Carl Perkins (KY) and the Ranking Member is Albert H. Quie (MN). Both of these men serve ex officio on all eight subcommittees. They should hear from you as well as the key subcommittee members.

There are three different education subcommittees in this Committee. The Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education is chaired by James G. O'Hara (MI). Other Democrats are: John Brademas (IN), Mario Biaggi (NY), Ike Andrews (NC), Michael Blouin (IA), Frank Thompson, Jr. (NJ), Ronald Mottl (OH), Augustus F. Hawkins (CA), Shirley Chisholm (NY), Jaime Benitez (PR), Paul Simon (IL), and Tim Hall (IL).

Republicans are: Edwin D. Eshleman (PA), the Subcommittee Ranking Member, John N. Erlenborn (IL), Marvin L. Esch (MI), John Buchanan (AL), and Virginia Smith (NE).

The majority party has separate subcommittee staffs. These individuals organize hearings, print testimony, etc., in addition to advising Mr. O'Hara. The subcommittee Staff Director is Mr. James Harrison, 320 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515. His phone is: (202) 225-8881.

The minority staff is not organized by subcommittees. The primary contact for legislation in postsecondary education is Dr. Robert Andringa, Minority Staff Director, Committee on Education and Labor, 2179 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515. His phone is (202) 225-3725.

Appropriations Committee: House

Most programs authorized by Congress in one law do not get a nickel until a separate appropriations bill becomes law. The House Appropriations Committee is organized into thirteen subcommittees. Each one handles certain federal agency budgets. The Subcommittee on HEW-Labor is responsible for most programs in postsecondary education. It is here that all of the hearings take place. What they decide is most often approved by the Full Committee and sent to the House for debate.

The Democrats on this subcommittee are: Daniel J. Flood (PA), Chairman, William H. Natcher (KY), Neal Smith (IA), Bob Casey (TX), Edward J. Patten (NJ), David R. Obey (WI), Edward R. Roybal (CA), and Louis Stokes (OH).

The Republicans are: Robert H. Michel (IL), Subcommittee Ranking Member, Garner E. Shriver (KS), and Silvio O. Conte (MA).

It is wise to also send copies of correspondence to the Full Committee Chairman, George H. Mahon (TX) and to the Ranking Member, Elford A. Cederberg (MI).

The key subcommittee staff contact for the majority is Mr. Fred Pfluger, Staff Assistant, 2358 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D. C. 20515. His phone is: (202) 225-3508.

The minority contact for subcommittee business is either one of Mr. Michel's Legislative Assistants, Mr. David Kehl and Mr. Tom McMurray in 1415 Longworth HOB. Phone: (202) 225-0197.

Authorizing Committees: Senate

Unlike the House Education and Labor Committee, the Labor and Public Welfare Committee handles both health and most education legislation. The Veterans' Affairs Committee handles the G. I. Bill; the Finance Committee handles tax legislation.

The Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee has nine Democrats and six Republicans. The chairman is Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (NJ) and the Ranking Republican Member is Jacob K. Javits (NY). Chairman Williams and Mr. Javits are assigned to specific subcommittees and are not ex officio on all nine subcommittees.

One Subcommittee on Education has jurisdiction over elementary, secondary, vocational and postsecondary education programs. This subcommittee is chaired by Senator Claiborne Pell (RL). Other Democrats are: Jennings Randolph (WV), Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (NJ), Edward M. Kennedy (MA), Walter F. Mondale (MN), Thomas F. Eagleton (MO), Alan Cranston (CA), and William D. Hathaway (ME).

Republicans are: J. Glenn Beall, Jr. (MD), Subcommittee Ranking Member, Jacob K. Javits (NY), Richard S. Schweiker (PA), Robert T. Stafford (VT), and Robert Taft, Jr. (OH).

The Majority Counsel is Mr. Stephen Wexler, 4228 Dirksen Building, Washington, D. C. 20510. Phone: (202) 224-7666.

The minority staff is not organized by subcommittees. The primary contact for postsecondary education is Mr. Gregory Fusco, Professional Staff Member, 4222 Dirksen Building, Washington, D. C. 20510. Phone: (202) 224-7688.

Appropriations Committee: Senate

This committee, like the House Committee, is organized into thirteen subcommittees. The HEW-Labor Subcommittee is chaired by Senator Warren G. Magnuson (WA) and includes these other Democrats: John Stennis (MS), Robert C. Byrd (WV), William Proxmire (WI), Joseph M. Montoya (NM), Ernest F. Hollings (SC), Thomas F. Eagleton (MO), Birch Bayh (IN), and Lawton Chiles (FL).

The Republican Senators are: Edward W. Brooke (MA), Ranking Member, Clifford P. Case (NJ), Hiram L. Fong (HI), Ted Stevens (AK), and Richard S. Schweiker (PA).

The key majority staff contact for this subcommittee is Mr. Harley Dirks, 1108 Dirksen SOB, Washington, D. C. 20510. Phone: (202) 224-7256.

The minority contact is Mr. Gar Kaganowich, 1245 Dirksen SOB, Washington, D. C. 20510. Phone: (202) 224-7231.

Again, if writing any of these Committee Members, it is good to send a copy to the Chairman of the Full Committee, John McClellan (AR) and to the Ranking Member, Milton R. Young (ND).

Budget Committees: General

Part of the congressional reform of 1974 was the creation of new House and Senate Budget Committees. It is too early to determine how effective they will be. Beginning in 1976, through a series of resolutions from these two committees, the Congress will set spending and revenue collecting priorities in several general areas (education being included in one). The appropriations committees wil then work within the boundaries of these budget resolutions. Public Law 93-344, which created this process, also changed the beginning date for the federal fiscal year--set to be October 1, 1976.

Persons interested in education should watch the development of these new committees, as they are likely to be the target of intensive lobbying efforts.

Budget Committee: House

This committee has 17 Democrats and 8 Republicans. Representative Brock Adams (WA) is Chairman and Delbert L. Latta (OH) is the Ranking Member.

Educators should note these other Members: James G. O'Hara (MI) (also Educaton and Labor) and Neal Smith (IA) (also HEW-Labor Appropriations Subcommittee).

The majority staff contact is Mr. George Gross, 214 House Office Building Annex, Washington, D. C. 20515. Phone: (202) 225-7200.

The minority staff contact is Mr. Mel Miller, 210 House Office Building Annex, Washington, D. C. 20515. Phone: (202) 225-7230.

Budget Committee: Senate

The Senate Budget Committee has 10 Democrats and 6 Republicans. Chairman is Edmund Muskie (ME) and Henry Bellmon (OK) is the Ranking Member.

Of interest to educators, the following Senators also serve: Senators Warren Magnuson (Chairman of the HEW-Labor Appropriations Subcommittee); Ernest Hollings and Lawton Chiles (Members of the HEW-Labor Appropriations Subcommittee); Walter Mondale, Alan Cranston and J. Glenn Beall, Jr. (Members of the Education Subcommittee of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee).

The majority staff contact is Douglas Bennet, Jr., 301 First Street, N. E., Washington, D. C. 20510. His phone is: (202) 224-0642.

The minority staff contact is Robert Boyd, 301 First Street, N. E., Washington, D. C. 20510. His phone is: (202) 224-0642.

Reminder

If you need to know more than this (and there is more!) never hesitate to call or write your Senators or your Representative.